

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A computer-implemented method of managing instant
2 messenger lists, said method comprising:
3 receiving, from one or more computerized sources,
4 contact data corresponding to a plurality of contacts;
5 adding the received contact data to a buddy list
6 associated with a user's instant messaging computer
7 application;
8 selecting one of the contacts added to the user's
9 buddy list; and
10 establishing an instant messaging session with the
11 selected contact.
- 1 2. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 indicating that one or more of the contacts added to
3 the user's buddy list is a temporary contact;
4 storing an expiration date corresponding to each of
5 the temporary contacts;
6 periodically comparing a current date to the
7 expiration dates stored for the temporary contacts;
8 and
9 removing the contact data corresponding to the
10 temporary contacts in response to the comparison.

1 3. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 prior to the reception of the contact data:
3 constructing a query of contact information
4 requested by the user; and
5 performing the query at a database, wherein the
6 database stores the contact information that
7 includes the contact data corresponding to the
8 contacts; and
9 wherein the contact data received is a result of the
10 performed query.

1 4. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 receiving an expiration date corresponding to the
3 query;
4 storing the expiration date with the contact data
5 received as a result of the query;
6 periodically comparing a current date to the
7 expiration date; and
8 removing the contact data in response to the
9 comparison.

1 5. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 prior to the reception of the contact data:
3 selecting one or more calendar entries from an
4 electronic calendar corresponding to the user;
5 and

6 retrieving, from the selected calendar entries,
7 calendar data that includes participant
8 information for participants of the selected
9 calendar entries; and

10 wherein the contact data received includes the
11 participant information.

1 6. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:

2 creating a buddy group within the user's buddy list,
3 wherein the created buddy group corresponds to a
4 selected calendar entry from an electronic calendar
5 corresponding to the user;

6 prior to the reception of the contact data:

7 selecting the calendar entry from the user's
8 electronic calendar; and

9 retrieving, from the selected calendar entry,
10 calendar data that includes participant
11 information for participants of the selected
12 calendar entry; and

13 subsequent to the reception of the contact data:

14 storing the received contact data in the buddy
15 group, wherein the contact data received includes
16 the participant information.

1 7. The method as described in claim 6 further comprising:

2 storing an expiration date corresponding to the
3 created buddy group, wherein the expiration date is
4 derived from the date of the selected calendar entry;

5 periodically comparing a current date to the
6 expiration date stored for the buddy group; and
7 removing the buddy group, including the contact data
8 added to the buddy group, in response to the
9 comparison.

1 8. The method as described in claim 1 further comprising:
2 adding the received contact data to a buddy group
3 included with the buddy list, wherein the buddy group
4 to which the contact data is added is determined by a
5 predefined policy.

1 9. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;
4 a network interface connecting the information
5 handling system to a computer network;
6 a software tool for managing instant messenger lists,
7 the software tool including software effective to:
8 receive, from one or more computerized sources,
9 contact data corresponding to a plurality of
10 contacts;
11 add the received contact data to a buddy list
12 associated with a user's instant messaging
13 computer application;
14 select one of the contacts added to the user's
15 buddy list; and

16 establish an instant messaging session with the
17 selected contact.

1 10. The information handling system as described in claim
2 9 further comprising software effective to:

3 indicate that one or more of the contacts added to the
4 user's buddy list is a temporary contact;

5 store an expiration date corresponding to each of the
6 temporary contacts;

7 periodically compare a current date to the expiration
8 dates stored for the temporary contacts; and

9 remove the contact data corresponding to the temporary
10 contacts in response to the comparison.

1 11. The information handling system as described in claim
2 9 further comprising software effective to:

3 prior to the reception of the contact data:

4 construct a query of contact information
5 requested by the user; and

6 perform the query at a database, wherein the
7 database stores the contact information that
8 includes the contact data corresponding to the
9 contacts; and

10 wherein the contact data received is a result of the
11 performed query.

1 12. The information handling system as described in claim
2 9 further comprising software effective to:

3 receive an expiration date corresponding to the query;
4 store the expiration date with the contact data
5 received as a result of the query;
6 periodically compare a current date to the expiration
7 date; and
8 remove the contact data in response to the comparison.

1 13. The information handling system as described in claim
2 9 further comprising software effective to:
3 prior to the reception of the contact data:
4 select one or more calendar entries from an
5 electronic calendar corresponding to the user;
6 and
7 retrieve, from the selected calendar entries,
8 calendar data that includes participant
9 information for participants of the selected
10 calendar entries; and
11 wherein the contact data received includes the
12 participant information.

1 14. The information handling system as described in claim
2 9 further comprising software effective to:
3 create a buddy group within the user's buddy list,
4 wherein the created buddy group corresponds to a
5 selected calendar entry from an electronic calendar
6 corresponding to the user;
7 prior to the reception of the contact data:

8 select the calendar entry from the user's
9 electronic calendar; and
10 retrieve, from the selected calendar entry,
11 calendar data that includes participant
12 information for participants of the selected
13 calendar entry; and
14 subsequent to the reception of the contact data:
15 store the received contact data in the buddy
16 group, wherein the contact data received includes
17 the participant information

1 15. The information handling system as described in claim
2 14 further comprising software effective to:
3 store an expiration date corresponding to the created
4 buddy group, wherein the expiration date is derived
5 from the date of the selected calendar entry;
6 periodically compare a current date to the expiration
7 date stored for the buddy group; and
8 remove the buddy group, including the contact data
9 added to the buddy group, in response to the
10 comparison.

1 16. The information handling system as described in claim
2 9 further comprising software effective to:
3 add the received contact data to a buddy group
4 included with the buddy list, wherein the buddy group
5 to which the contact data is added is determined by a
6 predefined policy.

- 1 17. A computer program product stored on a computer
2 operable media for managing instant messenger lists,
3 said computer program product comprising software
4 effective to:
5 receive, from one or more computerized sources,
6 contact data corresponding to a plurality of contacts;
7 add the received contact data to a buddy list
8 associated with a user's instant messaging computer
9 application;
10 select one of the contacts added to the user's buddy
11 list; and
12 establish an instant messaging session with the
13 selected contact.
- 1 18. The computer program product as described in claim 17
2 further comprising software effective to:
3 indicate that one or more of the contacts added to the
4 user's buddy list is a temporary contact;
5 store an expiration date corresponding to each of the
6 temporary contacts;
7 periodically compare a current date to the expiration
8 dates stored for the temporary contacts; and
9 remove the contact data corresponding to the temporary
10 contacts in response to the comparison.

1 19. The computer program product as described in claim 17
2 further comprising software effective to:

3 prior to the reception of the contact data:

4 construct a query of contact information
5 requested by the user; and

6 perform the query at a database, wherein the
7 database stores the contact information that
8 includes the contact data corresponding to the
9 contacts; and

10 wherein the contact data received is a result of the
11 performed query.

1 20. The computer program product as described in claim 17
2 further comprising software effective to:

3 receive an expiration date corresponding to the query;

4 store the expiration date with the contact data
5 received as a result of the query;

6 periodically compare a current date to the expiration
7 date; and

8 remove the contact data in response to the comparison.

1 21. The computer program product as described in claim 17
2 further comprising software effective to:

3 prior to the reception of the contact data:

4 select one or more calendar entries from an
5 electronic calendar corresponding to the user;
6 and

7 retrieve, from the selected calendar entries,
8 calendar data that includes participant
9 information for participants of the selected
10 calendar entries; and

11 wherein the contact data received includes the
12 participant information.

1 22. The computer program product as described in claim 17
2 further comprising software effective to:

3 create a buddy group within the user's buddy list,
4 wherein the created buddy group corresponds to a
5 selected calendar entry from an electronic calendar
6 corresponding to the user;

7 prior to the reception of the contact data:

8 select the calendar entry from the user's
9 electronic calendar; and

10 retrieve, from the selected calendar entry,
11 calendar data that includes participant
12 information for participants of the selected
13 calendar entry; and

14 subsequent to the reception of the contact data:

15 store the received contact data in the buddy
16 group, wherein the contact data received includes
17 the participant information

1 23. The computer program product as described in claim 22
2 further comprising software effective to:

3 store an expiration date corresponding to the created
4 buddy group, wherein the expiration date is derived
5 from the date of the selected calendar entry;

6 periodically compare a current date to the expiration
7 date stored for the buddy group; and

8 remove the buddy group, including the contact data
9 added to the buddy group, in response to the
10 comparison.

1 24. The computer program product as described in claim 17
2 further comprising software effective to:

3 add the received contact data to a buddy group
4 included with the buddy list, wherein the buddy group
5 to which the contact data is added is determined by a
6 predefined policy.

1 25. A computer-implemented method of managing instant
2 messenger lists, said method comprising:

3 receiving, from one or more computerized sources,
4 contact data corresponding to a plurality of contacts;

5 adding the received contact data to a buddy list
6 associated with a user's instant messaging computer
7 application;

8 indicating that one or more of the contacts added to
9 the user's buddy list is a temporary contact;

10 storing an expiration date corresponding to each of
11 the temporary contacts;

12 periodically comparing a current date to the
13 expiration dates stored for the temporary contacts;
14 and

15 removing the contact data corresponding to the
16 temporary contacts in response to the comparison.

1 26. A computer-implemented method of managing instant
2 messenger lists, said method comprising:

3 creating a buddy group within a user's buddy list,
4 wherein the created buddy group corresponds to a
5 selected calendar entry from an electronic calendar
6 corresponding to the user, and wherein the user's
7 buddy list is associated with an instant messaging
8 computer application;

9 identifying an expiration date of the buddy group, the
10 expiration date derived from the date of the selected
11 calendar entry;

12 retrieving, from the selected calendar entry, calendar
13 data that includes contact data for participants of
14 the selected calendar entry;

15 storing the received contact data in the buddy group,
16 wherein the contact data received includes the
17 participant information;

18 periodically comparing a current date to the
19 expiration date corresponding to the buddy group; and

20 removing the buddy group, including the contact data
21 added to the buddy group, in response to the
22 comparison.

1 27. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;
4 a network interface connecting the information
5 handling system to a computer network;
6 a software tool for managing instant messenger lists,
7 the software tool including software effective to:
8 receive, from one or more computerized sources,
9 contact data corresponding to a plurality of
10 contacts;
11 add the received contact data to a buddy list
12 associated with a user's instant messaging
13 computer application;
14 indicate that one or more of the contacts added
15 to the user's buddy list is a temporary contact;
16 store an expiration date corresponding to each of
17 the temporary contacts;
18 periodically compare a current date to the
19 expiration dates stored for the temporary
20 contacts; and
21 remove the contact data corresponding to the
22 temporary contacts in response to the comparison.

1 28. An information handling system comprising:
2 one or more processors;
3 a memory accessible by the processors;

4 a network interface connecting the information
5 handling system to a computer network;

6 a software tool for managing instant messenger lists,
7 the software tool including software effective to:

8 create a buddy group within a user's buddy list,
9 wherein the created buddy group corresponds to a
10 selected calendar entry from an electronic
11 calendar corresponding to the user, and wherein
12 the user's buddy list is associated with an
13 instant messaging computer application;

14 identify an expiration date of the buddy group,
15 the expiration date derived from the date of the
16 selected calendar entry;

17 retrieve, from the selected calendar entry,
18 calendar data that includes contact data for
19 participants of the selected calendar entry;

20 store the received contact data in the buddy
21 group, wherein the contact data received includes
22 the participant information;

23 periodically compare a current date to the
24 expiration date corresponding to the buddy group;
25 and

26 remove the buddy group, including the contact
27 data added to the buddy group, in response to the
28 comparison.

1 29. A computer program product stored on a computer
2 operable media for managing instant messenger lists,

3 said computer program product comprising software
4 effective to:

5 receive, from one or more computerized sources,
6 contact data corresponding to a plurality of contacts;

7 add the received contact data to a buddy list
8 associated with a user's instant messaging computer
9 application;

10 indicate that one or more of the contacts added to the
11 user's buddy list is a temporary contact;

12 store an expiration date corresponding to each of the
13 temporary contacts;

14 periodically compare a current date to the expiration
15 dates stored for the temporary contacts; and

16 remove the contact data corresponding to the temporary
17 contacts in response to the comparison.

1 30. A computer program product stored on a computer
2 operable media for managing instant messenger lists,
3 said computer program product comprising software
4 effective to:

5 create a buddy group within a user's buddy list,
6 wherein the created buddy group corresponds to a
7 selected calendar entry from an electronic calendar
8 corresponding to the user, and wherein the user's
9 buddy list is associated with an instant messaging
10 computer application;

11 identify an expiration date of the buddy group, the
12 expiration date derived from the date of the selected
13 calendar entry;

14 retrieve, from the selected calendar entry, calendar
15 data that includes contact data for participants of
16 the selected calendar entry;

17 store the received contact data in the buddy group,
18 wherein the contact data received includes the
19 participant information;

20 periodically compare a current date to the expiration
21 date corresponding to the buddy group; and

22 remove the buddy group, including the contact data
23 added to the buddy group, in response to the
24 comparison.